

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A substantially non-toxic fraction isolated from snake venom having the characteristics of a fraction purified from said venom by Mono Q ion-exchange chromatography, wherein said fraction has an analgesic effect after a lag period, and wherein said snake is selected from the group of snake families consisting of Atractaspidae, Elapidae, Crotalidae, Hydrophidae and Viperidae, with the exception of Vipera Xanthina.

2. (Original) A fraction according to claim 1 wherein said chromatography is carried out on a Mono Q column in 20mM TRIS-HCl buffer pH 7.0, and the fraction elutes at 12-28 minutes.

3. (Previously Presented) A fraction according to claim 1 wherein said Crotalidae is Crotalus adamanteus.

4. (Original) A fraction according to claim 1 wherein said Elapidae is Naja melanoleuca.

5. (Original) A product obtained from the fraction of claim 1 which retains said properties of the fraction.

Claims 6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for use as an analgesic comprising a substantially non-toxic fraction according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

9. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for topical administration.

10. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for parenteral administration.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8 for the treatment of pain.

12. (Original) A method for the relief of pain of a subject comprising administering to said subject a substantially non-toxic fraction according to claim 1.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said fraction is topically administered.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for isolating a substantially non-toxic fraction from snake venom, wherein said fraction has an analgesic effect, comprising applying whole venom to an ion exchange column and eluting the fraction with an aqueous buffer, wherein said snake is selected from the group of snake families consisting of Atractaspidae, Elapidae, Crotalidae, Hydrophidae and Viperidae, with the exception of Vipera Xanthina.

15. (Original) A method of claim 14, wherein said column is a Mono Q ion-exchange column.

16. (Original) A method of claim 15 wherein said column is eluted with a TRIS-HCl buffer or with an ammonium acetate buffer.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16 wherein the concentration of said buffer is 20mM and the pH is in the range of 6.8-7.5.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein said fraction elutes at 12-28 minutes.